A BLOODY TRAGEDY

Ed Johnson, Gilchrist Coal Miner, Kills His Wife and Takes Own Life.

COUPLE WERE ESTRANGED

One Shot Enough for Woman But is Compelled to Use Razor to Complete Work.

Gilchrist, Ill., Dec. 4.—(Special).—Ed Johnson, a miner, yesterday afternoon shot and killed his wife from whom he had become estranged, took possession of her home and after defying the posse of citizens that gathered to arrest him, shot himself twice and completed his bloody work by literally severing his head from his body with a razor.

The Johnsons were past middle age and leave a family of grown children. They had lived unhappily for years, due to the husband's intemperate habits, and for some months had been apart. Recently Mrs. Johnson had engaged an attorney at Aledo to file a bill for divorce in the Mercer county circuit court.

Was a Dangerous Man.

The husband was known by his wife to be a dangerous man, particularly when in liquor and the latter had avoided meeting him since it had become known that she contemplated applying for a divorce. Yesterday afternoon, after a visit to a beer garden near the town, Johnson was seen approaching his wife's home. The woman, seeing him coming, ran out of the back door to the home of a daughter. Johnson searched the premises and failing to find the object of his search went also to the home of the daughter where he drew a revolver and shot his wife, the first shot proving immediately fatal. The murderer then ran back to the home of his wife.

Crowd Demands Surrender.

A crowd gathered and surrounded the premises, demanding that the fugitive give himself up. His response was two revolver shots aimed at himself, neither of which accomplished the desired purpose. The neighbors, seeing him moving about and fearing to enter the house, telephoned the sheriff at Aledo and awaited developments.

After an hour or so in which nothing more had been seen of Johnson, the more bold of the crowd entered the building and beheld a shocking sight. On the floor in a pool of blood was the murderer, evidently dead for some time. His throat had been cut and the head half severed. Nearby lay a razor with which the tragedy had been completed.

Intemperance Lost Job.

Johnson had been a resident of this vicinity for several years. He was formerly employed by the Gilchrist Coal company, but his intemperance led to his discharge and lately he had been working in independent mines.

The tragedy is expected to result in a furtherance of the temperance crusade in Mercer county in which a bitter struggle between the liquor interests and the prohibition forces has been waged for a year or more.

BUY PERIODICALS

Library Board Approves List Presented by Committee and Authorizes Purchase.

M'NAMARA ON COMMITTEES

Is Appointed to Succeed A. DeSoland—Report of Librarian for Month is Received.

At the regular meeting of the board of directors of the public library last evening, James McNamara, the newly appointed director, succeeding A. DeSoland, was appointed in Mr. DeSoland's place on the committee on books, and also on the committee on rules. The book committee presented a list of books, and the board authorized the purchase of the books recommended by the committee. The committee on periodicals recommended a list of periodicals for the coming year, and on motion the list was approved, and the president and secretary instructed to issue orders for the subscriptions.

The Librarian's Report.

The report of the librarian for the month, showing a total circulation of 6,345 volumes, was received, and is as follows:

General works	370
Philosophy	14
Religion	38
Sociology	144
Science	52
Useful arts	34
Fine arts	31
Literature	188
Juvenile literature	1,280
Fiction	2,375
Travel	171
History	326
Total	5,013
Reference	1,332
Grand total	6,345

Financial Statement.

Received from fines.....$10.77

Bills for Month Allowed.

The following bills for the month of November were allowed and ordered paid:

A. C. McClurg & Co.	$172.87
Peoples Power company	85.75
Lerch & Greve	2.55
Library Bureau	3.30
Tri-City Transfer & Fuel company	57.65
T. Smart	3.50
Hayes & Cleaveland	100.00
Expenses	3.30
Lorenze Breader	10.00
Salaries	205.00
Total	$644.05

M'FARLAND WANTS MATCH

Packy Would Take on Bennie Yanger Before Davenport Club.

Chicago, Dec. 4.—Benny Yanger and Tommy Mowatt came within three pounds of being matched yesterday. That is to say, if the two can get together and arrange terms they probably will meet before a Peoria club in the near future. "Packie" McFarland also wants a bout with Yanger, and it may take place at Davenport.

To Hold Fight at Baltimore.

New York, Dec. 4.—"Young" Corbett and Terry McGovern will fight before the Eureka Athletic club of Baltimore the last week in January. Al Herford, representing the club, offered 70 per cent of the gross receipts and his bid was accepted. He posted a $1,000 forfeit.

Japan to Seek Loan.

Japan is sending a representative to both England and America to seek a loan of $40,000,000 for the Manchurian enterprises, and also to try and secure a lower interest basis on old loans now in force. There are hundreds of persons in our own country who are seeking to recover their former good health and many of them have about given up in despair. There is no need, however, for discouragement for in Hostetter's Stomach Bitters every sick man and woman can find relief and an ulimate cure for all such ailments as poor appetite, sick headache, nausea, heartburn, belching, dyspepsia, indigestion, costiveness, liver and kidney troubles, female ills and malaria. Be persuaded to try one bottle today and test it for your own satisfaction. You'll agree that it is the best health restorer and preserver before the public.

ASSOCIATED CHARITIES ELECT OFFICERS

Dr. J. W. Stewart Chosen President—Will Solicit Cast Off Toys for Distribution Christmas.

A meeting of the members of the Associated Charities was held this morning at 10 o'clock at the office of Dr. Stewart, 1807½ Second avenue and the following officers were elected:

President—J. W. Stewart.
Vice President—Miss Dina Ramser.
Secretary—Mrs. C. O. Woodruff.
Treasurer—W. H. Gest.
Chairman of Finance Committee—Mayer Levi.
Chairman of Relief Committee—Miss Ramser.

The ward vice presidents elected were: First ward, Mrs. George Hastings and Mrs. F. Corcoran; Second ward, Mrs. D. Gard; Third ward, Mrs. Kann; Fourth ward, Mrs. A. Mosenfelder; Fifth ward, Mrs. Wirt Taylor; Sixth ward, Mrs. William Arnold; Seventh ward, Mrs. Muse and Mrs. Sperbeck.

An advisory committee was appointed consisting of the following members: Rev. O. W. Lawrence, Rev. Marion Humphreys, and Miss Mamie Dodge Cook. The association has decided to ask the children of the Sunday schools in the city to bring their cast off toys and books to Sunday school with them the Sunday before Christmas so that they may be distributed to the poor children Christmas day. The next meeting of the association will be held at Dr. Stewart's office Tuesday, Jan. 8.

ROCKFORD TO HAVE RACES

Fair Association Organized to Hold Meeting Next Fall.

Rockford, Ill., Dec. 4.—The Rockford Fair association, organized last night with a capital stock of $20,000, will revive harness horse racing, which in days gone by flourished in this city. The meet will be held the first week in September, and some big purses to attract the fast ones will be hung up. The driving park has been secured and it has one of the best mile tracks in the state. The enthusiasm is high and the stock has been subscribed by the citizens generally. In connection with the races a mammoth county fair will be held.

CHANGE FOR E. L. HARRIS

Rock Island Boy in Consular Service Goes to Smyrna, Turkey.

According to Washington Associated Press dispatches the president has presented the nomination among the large number placed before the senate yesterday of Ernest L. Harris of Rock Island county, to be consul at Smyrna, Turkey. Mr. Harris, who spent a number of years fitting himself for the consular service, has held appointments in Germany since his first appointment, being located of late at Chemnitz. His appointment at Smyrna comes as a well earned promotion.

FINE STILL HOLDS GOOD

Peoria Players Suspended Till They Settle for Playing Outlaws.

That the national board has not revoked the ruling made with reference to the fining of the ball players who participated in the exhibition games at Peoria with the Logan Squares is made manifest by a notice which Harry Stauffer, under reserve by Peoria and now working at Rock Island arsenal, received yesterday. He is informed that his suspension stands till the fine of $50 is paid.

Berryhill to Manage Newark.

Richmond, Ind., Dec. 4.—R. E. Berryhill of Lebanon, Ind., has been chosen manager of the Newark, Ohio, baseball team.

A. R. TALBOT FOR VICE PRESIDENCY; BOOSTS FOR TWO M. W. A. OFFICIALS

Two prominent Modern Woodmen officials are the subjects of recent complimentary sketches in the newspapers. Benjamin D. Smith, head attorney of the society is written up in the Mankato Daily Free Press and the Wolverine Citizen of Flint, Mich., helps along the boom of Head Consul A. R. Talbot for the republican nomination for the vice presidency in the following language:

"Hon. A. R. Talbot, of Nebraska, head consul of the Modern Woodmen of America, is being prominently mentioned in connection with the republican nomination two years hence, for vice president of the United States.

"Mr. Talbot is one of the leading attorneys of the west, and was for many years the law partner of William Jennings Bryan. He is one of the leading republicans of the country, ranks with, perhaps, the three or four best public speakers in America, and in fraternal circles his name is known in every school district in the United States.

"The Modern Woodmen, of which society he is the chief executive, is the largest fraternal society in America, having over eight hundred thousand members, and last year Mr. Talbot was president of the National Fraternal congress, an organization representing a membership of 5,000,000 members of fraternal societies, with a total of members and interested beneficiaries reaching over 20,000,000 persons.

"The Citizen voices the sentiments of thousands of friends of Mr. Talbot in Michigan, when it expresses the hope that the next republican national convention may do itself the honor to nominate him for vice president, and The Citizen will not be sorry if the head of the ticket is Theodore Roosevelt."

* * *

Mr. Smith is the subject of a cartoon similar to those recently appearing in The Argus of prominent Rock Island citizens and the following sketch of his career is given:

"Benjamin D. Smith, the subject of the above cartoon, was born, raised and educated in Blue Earth county. His ancestors were early settlers of the old town of Vernon Center, where Mr. Smith was born in 1860. During his boybood he lived with his parents at Garden City and later on the farm at Rapidan. In the fall of 1877 he entered the normal school in this city and was graduated from the advanced course in 1880. He taught school, then studied law in this city and has continuously practiced his profession since his admission to the bar in December 1883. He has been a resident of this city since 1877.

"Mr. Smith was county attorney of Blue Earth county four years, commencing Jan. 1, 1887. He has been chairman of the republican county committee and a member, representing this judicial district, of the republican state central committee. During the activity of the league of republican clubs Mr. Smith was for years an officer of the city, county and state leagues and delegate to the National League convention."

"In July, 1895, Mr. Smith was chosen head adviser of the Modern Woodmen of America, the office corresponding to vice president of the national organization. Soon thereafter he resigned to accept membership on the national board of directors of this society, which position he held eight years. Since July, 1903, he has been the general attorney of the Modern Woodmen and as such has general charge of the litigation of this fraternal beneficiary society in all New England and the states of New York, Ohio, Indiana, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Montana, Idaho Washington, Oregon, Nebraska, Missouri, and Texas.

"Mr. Smith also is chairman of the beneficiary committee of the Royal Neighbors of America. This society is the women's auxiliary of the Modern Woodmen and now has more than 112,000 beneficial members. Mr. Smith's committee has the sole management of the beneficial or insurance feature of this society. The Modern Woodmen has a membership of over 800,000."

New Cure for Epilepsy.

J. B. Waterman of Watertown, Ohio, rural free delivery, writes: "My daughter, afflicted for years with epilepsy, was cured by Dr. King's New Life Pills. She has not had an attack for over two years." Best body cleansers and life giving tonic pills on earth. 25c at W. T. Hartz' drug store.

MOST COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATIONS HELD

Are Those for Appointments to State Institutions of Illinois Opening Today.

The series of 25 civil service examinations which began yesterday will be the most comprehensive ever held in Illinois. The examinations cover attendants in the hospitals for the insane, electricians, firemen, engineers, carpenters, pharmacists, florists, stenographers, trained nurses and chief nurses, cooks and chief cooks, laborers, and domestics.

The examiners are Dr. George W. Michell of the Asylum for the Incurable Insane, Peoria; Dr. Clara Dunn of the Northern Hospital for the Insane, Elgin, and Dr. Claud F. Shronts of the Eastern Hospital for the Insane, Kankakee.

Commissioner Browne and Dr. Michell will have the eastern section of the state, commencing at Golconda and working north through Marion, Benton, Fairfield, Lawrence and Marshall. From Marshall he will go to the northwestern portion of the state, beginning Monday, Dec. 10, at Rockford, and closing Tuesday, Dec. 11, at Watertown.

The largest classes to be examined during the trip will be as follows: Jacksonville, 173; Kankakee, 154; Peoria, 125; Anna, 105; Chicago, 80; Elgin, 80; Watertown, 58; Vienna, 67; Marion, 60; Fairfield, 43. Golconda, in the extreme southern section, leads off with 38.